Calgary Economic Region (CER)

FEBRUARY 2018

Labour Market Review

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March 9, 2018

Highlights: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey[1] in February shows the following:

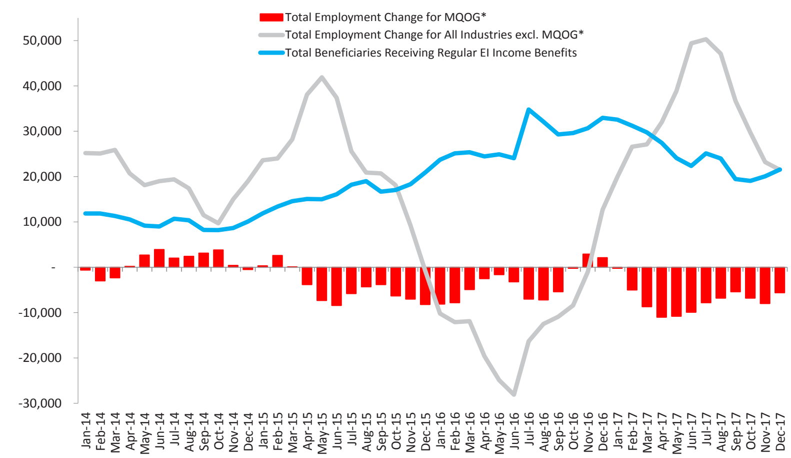
- In the Calgary Economic Region (CER), total employment increased by 2,500 from the previous month, and by 24,000 from a year ago. The region's unemployment rate was 7.7 per cent, compared to 6.8 per cent in Alberta and 5.9 per cent across Canada.
- From February 2017 to February 2018, new full-time jobs (+28,500) were partially offset by the losses in part-time positions (-4,400). The new jobs were mainly added in the Goods-producing sector (+26,500), including the Agriculture (+8,000) and Construction (+6,500) industries. In the mean time, job losses were concentrated in the Service-producing sector, in the Other Service (-13,900) and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-13,700) industries.
- In the Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA), the average weekly wage rate in February 2018 was $1,165, up by $19 or 1.7 per cent from a year ago; the total weekly wage bill for the CCMA was $811 million, up by $33 million year-over-year.
- In December 2017, there were 20,765 employment insurance (EI) beneficiaries in the CCMA, down by 35 per cent from a year ago.

The number of total beneficiaries receiving regular EI income in the Calgary CMA has been elevated at an above long-term average level for the past three years. The dramatic declines in global commodity prices since late 2014 had seen massive job cuts in the CCMA started from the Mining, quarrying, oil and gas (MQOG) industries in early 2015. Compared to the job losses in all other industries that mostly happened in 2016, the job bleeding in the MQOG industries has lingered much longer (Chart 1).

In response to the unemployment shocks in commodity-based regions including Calgary and Edmonton, the Federal Government made temporary EI extensions.[2] With the expiration of EI extensions even for the long-tenured workers, the number of EI beneficiaries has declined sharply since July 2017. Many of the workers running out of EI benefits came back to work for jobs possibly in an entirely different industry (Chart 2).

Chart 1 Calgary CMA: EI Beneficiaries vs. Employment Change

(Jan. 2014 - Dec. 2017; persons)

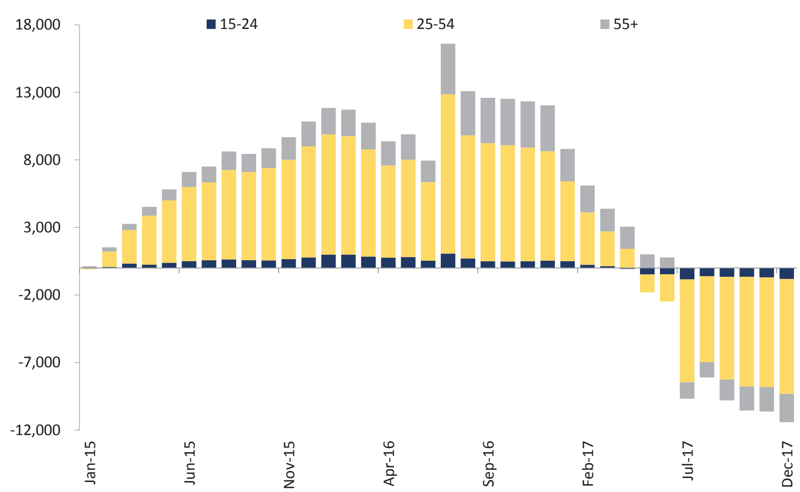


* MQOG = Mining, quarring, oil and gas industry

Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

Chart 2 Calgary CMA Regular EI Beneficiaries Change by Age Cohort

(Jan. 2015 - Dec. 2017; year-over-year, persons)



Source: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics

Table 1 Labour Force Statistics

(Seasonally unadjusted 3-month moving average)

Table 2 on next page

CALGARY ECONOMIC REGION

Description	Feb-18	Jan-18	Feb-17	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	1,318.7	1,316.9	1,298.5	20.2
Labour Force ('000)	968.5	963.4	956.8	11.7
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	73.4	73.2	73.7	(0.3)
Employment ('000)	894.1	891.6	870.1	24.0
Employment Rate (%)	67.8	67.7	67.0	0.8
Unemployment ('000)	74.4	71.9	86.7	(12.3)
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.7	7.5	9.1	(1.4)

ALBERTA

Description	Jan-18	Dec17	Jan-17	Annual Change
Working Age Population ('000)	3,447.2	3,444.1	3,411.7	35.5
Labour Force ('000)	2,464.9	2,464.0	2,460.1	4.8
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	71.5	71.5	72.1	(0.6)
Employment ('000)	2,297.4	2,295.4	2,248.8	48.6
Employment Rate (%)	66.6	66.6	65.9	0.7
Unemployment ('000)	167.5	168.6	211.3	(43.8)
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.8	6.8	8.6	(1.8)

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 9, 2018

Calgary

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Table 2 Calgary CMA Wage by Industry

Industry	Total employed* ('000 persons)			Average weekly earning ($)			Total weekly bills ($million)		
	Feb-18	Feb-17	Change (y/y)	Feb-18	Feb-17	Change (y/y)	Feb-18	Feb-17	Change (y/y)
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	47.7	42.5	5.2	1,981.0	2,022.7	(41.8)	94.5	86.0	8.5
Utilities	11.4	9.3	2.1	1,855.4	1,969.9	(114.5)	21.2	18.3	2.8
Construction	53.5	43.7	9.8	1,392.7	1,283.7	109.0	74.5	56.1	18.4
Manufacturing	38.0	38.0	0.0	1,091.1	1,194.4	(103.3)	41.5	45.4	(3.9)
Wholesale Trade	31.2	28.7	2.5	1,202.9	1,355.8	(152.9)	37.5	38.9	(1.4)
Retail Trade	83.6	81.0	2.6	691.0	664.1	26.9	57.8	53.8	4.0
Transportation and Warehousing	49.1	49.0	0.1	1,250.8	1,279.5	(28.7)	61.4	62.7	(1.3)
Information and Cultural Industries	13.9	11.8	2.1	1,033.7	1,141.6	(108.0)	14.4	13.5	0.9
Finance and Insurance	23.1	19.0	4.1	1,365.0	1,232.5	132.4	31.5	23.4	8.1
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	8.5	10.7	(2.2)	1,066.6	1,041.2	25.4	9.1	11.1	(2.1)
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	52.7	68.3	(15.6)	1,527.6	1,456.8	70.8	80.5	99.5	(19.0)
Administrative and Support	21.7	18.6	3.1	729.7	974.2	(244.5)	15.8	18.1	(2.3)
Educational Services	51.8	48.5	3.3	1,275.2	1,190.4	84.8	66.1	57.7	8.3
Health Care and Social Assistance	78.3	83.6	(5.3)	1,092.0	1,060.5	31.5	85.5	88.7	(3.2)
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	15.3	16.7	(1.4)	549.4	618.3	(68.9)	8.4	10.3	(1.9)
Accommodation and Food Services	55.5	47.1	8.4	553.6	505.0	48.7	30.7	23.8	6.9
Other Services(except Public Admin)	26.1	36.0	(9.9)	983.6	776.0	207.6	25.7	27.9	(2.3)
Public Administration	31.5	26.2	5.3	1,622.9	1,613.3	9.6	51.1	42.3	8.9
All Industries	**696.1**	**679.3**	**16.8**	**1,165.2**	**1,145.9**	**19.3**	**811.1**	**778.4**	**32.7**

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics, March 9, 2018
* Excluding self-employed
Note: lack of data for Agriculture

Next update: April 6, 2018

Who We Are

Corporate Economics provides services in four areas: forecasting, information provision, policy analysis and consulting. We also monitor the current economic trends which allows us to develop unique insights on how external events are impacting the local economy and the Municipal government. We are experienced at researching different economic topics and have developed reliable methods of forecasting and analysis.

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[1] Data used in this report for the Calgary Economic Region (CER) and Calgary Census Metropolitan Area (CCMA) is 3-month moving average, not seasonally adjusted.
[2] The changes extended the duration of EI regular benefits by 5 weeks for all eligible claimants to a maximum of 50 weeks, and an additional 20 weeks of EI regular benefits to long-tenured workers to a maximum of 70 weeks. The extensions applied to EI claimants in the 15 hardest-hit regions who had established an EI claim on or between January 4, 2015 and July 8, 2017.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Corporate Economics